

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in an infuser for a liquid food product, ~~of the type which includes~~ the apparatus including a pressure vessel with an inlet for the product located in its upper region and an outlet for the product located in its lower region, said product inlet being disposed to divide the product entering into the pressure vessel into small droplets, and the infuser also including an inlet for steam disposed such that steam enters into the upper region of the pressure vessel through a concentric distribution chamber wherein the concentric distribution chamber is defined by a wall of the pressure vessel, a guide plate and at least one foraminated plate, wherein the concentric distribution chamber is designed so that the steam, on entering the pressure vessel, is downwardly directed and is at a speed of < 2 m/sec, and the pressure vessel is designed so that the product is treated by the steam below the guide plate.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes two foraminated plates which are sealingly secured against the wall of the pressure vessel and against the guide plate.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein holes of the plates have a diameter of 1-10 mm.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the holes have a diameter of 2-5 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the guide plate has an extent below the foraminated plates which at least corresponds to the diameter of the holes multiplied by ten.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the guide plate has an extent below the foraminated plates which is 50-60 mm.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes two steam inlets which are diametrically placed and radially disposed.

9. (New) An apparatus in an infuser for a liquid food product, the apparatus comprising a pressure vessel with an inlet for the product located in its upper region and an outlet for the product located in its lower region, the product inlet being disposed to divide the product entering into the pressure vessel into small droplets, and the infuser also including an inlet for steam disposed such that steam enters into the upper region of the pressure vessel through a concentric distribution chamber wherein the concentric distribution chamber is defined by a wall of the

pressure vessel, a guide plate and at least one foraminated plate, and the pressure vessel is designed so that the product is treated by the steam below the guide plate.

10. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the apparatus includes two foraminated plates which are sealingly secured against the wall of the pressure vessel and against the guide plate.

11. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein holes of the plates have a diameter of 1-10 mm.

12. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the holes have a diameter of 2-5 mm.

13. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the guide plate has an extent below the foraminated plates which at least corresponds to the diameter of the holes multiplied by ten.

14. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the guide plate has an extent below the foraminated plates which is 50-60 mm.

15. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the apparatus includes two steam inlets which are diametrically placed and radially disposed.